

Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative Meeting Notes

November 16, 2011

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Langdon Educational Campus

Facilitators: Chancellor Henderson, Council Member Thomas, Kelly Young, Shanita Burney

The notes below reflect our effort to summarize the comments, questions, and concerns expressed at each meeting. They are not recorded verbatim and should not be considered direct quotations. Additional information currently available to comments is presented below.

Overview:

The meeting consisted of DCPS Central Office and school-based staff, Ward 5 families, and community members. DCPS staff reviewed the process to date of the Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative, presented potential grade configurations for SY 2013-2014, and listened to community feedback. Proposed grade configurations and DCPS presentation can be found in the meeting's power-point presentation, available on the DCPS website in the Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative section, <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/Parents+and+Community/Ward+5+Great+Schools+Initiative>. Most attendees were pleased with DCPS's efforts to honor parent concerns for the proposed schools. Concerns remain about short-term solutions for SY 2011 and 2012.

Notes:

Issue	Comments/Questions	Additional Information
Overall School Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How will you address mixing of different ages?▪ We like the different options for robust programs and different entry points for MS.▪ We like that the options are based upon survey results to enhance what is currently offered in our schools.▪ Would students attending one of these schools make them more competitive when applying to an application school?▪ Will the schools require applications?▪ How are we going to make learning fun?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In PS-8 Education Campus and 6-12 Early College High School, middle grade students would be housed in a separate wing of the building.

DCPS support and readiness to open new school portfolio by SY 2013-2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are a year and a half out from the launch – what would this look like for students entering the model in 6th grade? ▪ Concerns about everything running well by SY13-14 ▪ How is DCPS going to ensure that they follow through on their promise and do not fall short with funding? ▪ How will you transition students into these models? ▪ We need to see how this will work in DC, by checking with students, not just staff. ▪ How do we recruit back Ward 5 families? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCPS has a parent advisory group which will help us with strategies to increase enrollment through community outreach
School facilities and consolidations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All the middle grade schools should have great science labs. ▪ Which buildings will be closed? ▪ Can a middle school building be ready by SY13-14? ▪ Which schools will be modified to be education campuses? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific sites have been selected. We are getting feedback on the proposed grade configuration before proposing specific schools.
Course offerings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are some opportunities to learn other subjects (arts, world languages, etc?) ▪ What are some of the classes that are included in this model? ▪ What happens to Montessori programs in the new configuration? Is coexistence possible? ▪ Can DCPS ensure benchmarks (like Algebra by 8th grade) be implemented in these programs? ▪ What languages will be taught? Can students test out of a language? ▪ Deal has huge after school programs options that are needed at all schools. ▪ DCPS needs to educate parents on options; explain programs/options/set-up of model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For more information on IB, STEM, Arts and World Languages Integration, please see links on the Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative page.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does IB enforce Rigor? ▪ How does IB work for special needs students? ▪ Would students graduate with a specific diploma if they did IB? ▪ Is specialized training for teachers required for IB? ▪ How does IB enforce Rigor? ▪ What is the length of the IB application process? ▪ IB model was listed PS-8 – would students continue IB through high school? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Academic+Offerings/International+Baccalaureate
Arts Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arts integration – what does that really mean? How does it change the normal program? ▪ Does moving to this model change the theme at Langdon? ▪ How are languages integrated? ▪ How does music get integrated? ▪ Will PS-8 school also have music? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Academic+Offerings/Arts+Integration+Schools
6-12 STEM school at McKinley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the STEM school going to be in the feeder system or is it going to be an application school? ▪ What ideas do you have to bring science alive? ▪ What is being done to assess where these kids are and whether they are ready for the STEM option? Why didn't you offer all the schools in Ward 5 the STEM option back in 2008? ▪ I think it would be attractive for the STEM school to have a partnership with a local university, like Trinity or Catholic. ▪ Is McKinley going to be on track to improve performance now? How will DCPS support this improvement? ▪ Now that McKinley is going to be a school of choice, how are we going to address graduation requirements? ▪ What percentage of Ward 5 students does 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposal is for McKinley Tech to be a city-wide application school with 100 middle school seats set aside for Ward 5 applicants. ▪ Grades 6-8 would be housed in a separate wing from grades 9-12. ▪ McKinley currently has partnerships with Georgetown and Howard Universities. ▪ McKinley saw improvements of 11% in Math and 16% in ELA in 2011. ▪ In SY 2011, McKinley had 245 students from Ward 5 (37%).

	<p>McKinley accept over the past three years? How many Ward 5 students currently attend McKinley?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Without Walls and Banneker have better reputations than McKinley. 	
<p>Short-term Solutions to immediate concerns about quality education in Ward 5 for this school year and next school year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are our high school options for next year? ▪ There are about three grades of students that are currently falling through the cracks – how do plan to support the failing students? ▪ We really need a plan for this year’s eighth graders to take effect immediately. ▪ What is your plan for current middle grade students that will not benefit from this new model? ▪ Some of the kids may not even be eligible to apply – how do you reconcile that? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to Algebra and world languages will be offered in all Ward 5 Education Campuses in SY 2012-13

Next Ward 5 Great Schools Initiative Meeting

January 25, 2012

6pm – 8pm

Location TBD